AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

No amendments were made to the pending claims. The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) In a method for treating an NH_3-containing gas wherein a gas containing an ammonia (NH_3) of a high concentration is allowed to pass through a pre-treatment catalyst layer having a function for oxidizing NH_3 to generate nitrogen monoxide (NO), and then pass through a denitration catalyst layer having in combination, a denitration function and a function for oxidizing NH_3 to generate NO , which contains titanium oxide (TiO_2);an oxide of at least one selected from the group consisting of vanadium (V), tungsten (W), molybdenum (Mo), zeolite, titania, alumina, and zirconia supported with platinum (Pt), and combinations thereof; a method for preventing thermal deterioration of the catalyst of the denitration catalyst layer, characterized by disposing a catalyst layer not having the function for oxidizing NH_3 to generate NO in the pre-treatment catalyst layer in parallel thereto.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a part of a flow path section of the pre-treatment catalyst layer is composed of a catalyst layer containing an NH_3 oxidation active component selected from the group consisting of zeolite, silica, titania, zirconia, and alumina supported with at least one selected from the group consisting of platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd), and rhodium (Rh) and combinations thereof; and another part of the flow path section is composed of a catalyst layer not containing the NH_3 oxidation active component in the pre-treatment catalyst layer.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a feed amount of the NH_3-containing gas to the flow path of the catalyst layer having the function for oxidizing NH_3 to generate NO in the pre-treatment catalyst and another flow path not having the former function is controlled in such that an NH_3 concentration in the gas treated in the pre-treatment catalyst layer is higher than a NOx concentration.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the gas containing the NH_3 of the high concentration contains 3% of NH_3.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for treating an NH_3-containing gas while preventing thermal deterioration of a catalyst, wherein a pre-treatment catalyst layer having a function for oxidizing NH_3 to generate carbon monoxide (NO), and a catalyst layer having a denitration function in combination with another function for oxidizing NH_3 to generate NO, which contains titanium (TiO_2); an oxide of at least one selected from the group consisting of vanadium (V), tungsten (W), and combinations thereof, are sequentially disposed in a flow path section of a gas containing ammonia (NH_3) along the gas flow direction, characterized in that a part of the flow path section is composed of a catalyst layer containing an NH_3 oxidation active component selected from the group consisting of zeolite, silica, titania, zirconia and alumina supported with at least one selected from the group consisting of platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd), and rhodium (Rh) and combinations thereof; and another part of the flow path section is composed of a catalyst layer not containing the NH_3 oxidation active component in the pre-treatment catalyst layer.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a ratio of the catalyst layer containing the NH_3 oxidation active component to the catalyst layer not containing the oxidation component is decided in the pre-treatment catalyst layer such

that the NH_3 concentration is higher than a NOx concentration in the outlet gas of the pre-treatment catalyst layer.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein a feed amount of the NH_3-containing gas to the flow path of the catalyst layer having the function for oxidizing NH_3 to generate NO in the pre-treatment catalyst and another flow path not having the former function is controlled in such that an NH_3 concentration in the gas treated in the pre-treatment catalyst layer is higher than a NOx concentration.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the gas containing the NH_3 of the high concentration contains 3% of NH_3.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the gas containing the NH_3 of the high concentration contains 3% of NH_3.